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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

Broadband service is no longer a luxury in the United States. It has become essential for business, education, shopping, finance, social interaction, and health care, among other things. The demand is there; the supply is not. Traditional telephone companies, despite the monopoly powers granted them, have been allowed to operate under ancient, inadequate tariffs. "Dial tone" might have been a reasonable level of service to demand from them in 1930, but is laughable today. Consumers, especially in rural areas, need competition and choice. Even a good part of San Francisco has limited and primitive broadband service! A Certificate of Public Necessity and Convenience, granting a utility company powers second only to that of local government, comes with obligations. It is not a license for carriers to cream off the most lucrative areas, stifle competition, and sit on their hands.

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